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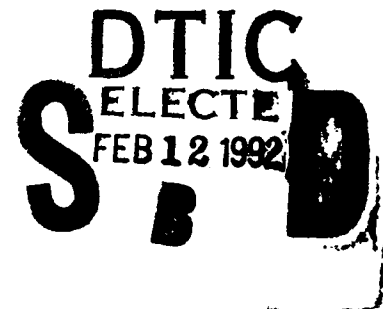
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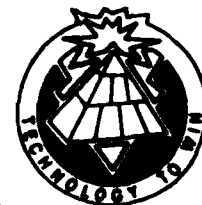
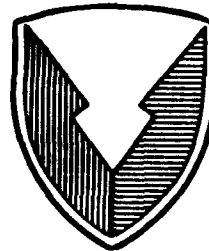
ON THE SUBJECT OF GEOMETRIC SPACING
OF METEOROLOGICAL SENSORS

November 1991

Henry Rachele
Arnold Tunick



92-03320



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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No 0704-0188	
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1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE November 1991	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE On the Subject of Geometric Spacing of Meteorological Sensors			5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
6. AUTHOR(S) Henry Rachele and Arnold Tunick			TA: B53A-B611102.53A.40.11	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002-5501			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER ASL-TMR-0011	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Laboratory Command Adelphi, MD 20783-1145			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) <p>In an earlier study the authors concluded that to estimate turbulence characteristics such as the friction velocity, the temperature scaling length, and the Obukhov length from discretely measured data, it is desirable and efficient, but not necessary, to have the sensors spaced geometrically with height. In that study the authors accepted the traditional geometric spacing equations and compared results from those equations with a set of more general formulations for a few examples.</p> <p>For most turbulence studies in the boundary layer, however, one nominally desires single values of the turbulence characteristics through a layer of say 20, 30, or 100 m; that is, one normally assumes that the characteristic lengths are constant with height. In this study the authors present our mean value theorem mathematical development for the case of geometric spacing relative to the geometric mean for a single sublayer, and assume that the values for the total layer can be determined by averaging the sublayer values. Finally, the authors show in tabular form comparisons of U^*, θ^*, L, and R_1 for four sublayers (1/2 - 2 m), (1 - 4 m), (2 - 8 m), and (4 - 16 m) by using the proposed Rachele/Tunick (RT) formulations and the traditional formulations.</p>				
14. SUBJECT TERMS boundary layer turbulence characteristics, geometric spacing of meteorological sensors, similarity theory, micrometeorology			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 23	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified			16. PRICE CODE	
18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified		19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified		20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAB

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank the late Louis D. Duncan and Frank V. Hansen of the U.S. Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, who have shown special interest in this topic, have encouraged the study, and have taken the time to review and comment on the contents.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In an earlier study (Rachele et al., 1991), we concluded that to estimate turbulence characteristics such as the friction velocity, temperature scaling length, and the Obukhov (1946) length from discretely measured data, it is desirable and efficient, but not necessary, to have the sensors spaced geometrically with height. In that study we presented the mathematics necessary to show that geometric spacing is not necessary. The mathematical argument for geometric spacing was not developed or presented. Furthermore, we could not find a reference for it. Even so, we considered the traditional geometric spacing equations and compared results from them with our more general formulations based on the mean value theorem for a few examples and found that for practical applications the differences were not significant.

For most turbulence studies in the boundary layer, one desires single values of the turbulence characteristics through a layer of perhaps 20, 30, or 100 m; that is, one typically assumes that the characteristic lengths are constant with height. A procedure for determining the total layer values is to compute the values in the geometrically spaced sublayers and then average the sublayer values.

In this study we consider the case where the sensors are geometrically spaced. We then present our mathematical development requiring geometric spacing for a single sublayer based on the mean value theorem and assume that the values for the total layer (summation of sublayers) can be determined by averaging the sublayer values.

2. MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the development that follows, we focus on the vertical gradient of windspeed written in similarity form for unstable and stable conditions. Results for temperature are similar. The neutral case results from the reduced form of the unstable or stable case.

2.1 Unstable Formulations

We write the wind gradient for unstable conditions as

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = \frac{U^*}{kz} \left(1 - \beta \frac{z}{L}\right)^{-1/4} = \frac{U^*}{kz} \phi_m \left(\frac{z}{L}\right) , \quad (1)$$

where

V - windspeed

U^* - friction velocity

k - Karman's constant

z - height

β - constant

L - Obukhov length

Integrating equation (1) results in

$$V = \frac{U^*}{k} \left\{ \ln \frac{z}{z_0} - \Psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) \right\} , \quad (2)$$

where

z_0 - roughness length,

z/L - the Monin and Obukhov (1954) scaling ratio

and

$$\Psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) = 2 \ln \left(\frac{1 + X}{2} \right) + \ln \left(\frac{1 + X^2}{2} \right) - 2 \tan^{-1} X + \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (3)$$

$$X = \left(1 - \beta \frac{z}{L} \right)^{1/4} \quad (4)$$

as shown by Paulson (1970).

Evaluating equation (2) for two geometric heights z_1 and z_2 , where $z_2 > z_1$, we obtain

$$V_2 - V_1 = \frac{U^*}{k} \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \Psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \Psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right) . \quad (5)$$

Dividing equation (5) by $z_2 - z_1$ gives

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{z_2 - z_1} = \frac{U^*}{k(z_2 - z_1)} \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \Psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \Psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right) . \quad (6)$$

The mean value theorem of calculus states that there exists at least one point ξ , where $z_1 \leq \xi \leq z_2$ such that

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{z_2 - z_1} = \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{\xi} , \quad (7)$$

where

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{\xi} = \frac{U^*}{k\xi} \left(1 - \beta \frac{\xi}{L} \right)^{-1/4} . \quad (8)$$

Using equations (6), (7), and (8) we find that

$$\xi = \frac{(z_2 - z_1) \left(1 - \beta \frac{\xi}{L} \right)^{-1/4}}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right)} . \quad (9)$$

Now suppose that a scaling constant $\epsilon > 0$ exists such that

$$\epsilon \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{\xi} = \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} , \quad (10)$$

where z_g is the geometric mean of z_1 and z_2 , that is, $z_g = (z_1 z_2)^{1/2}$.

Using equation (1), we can write equation (10) as

$$\epsilon \frac{U^*}{k\xi} \left(1 - \beta \frac{\xi}{L} \right)^{-1/4} = \frac{U^*}{kz_g} \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L} \right)^{-1/4} . \quad (11)$$

Solving equation (11) for ϵ gives

$$\epsilon = \frac{\xi}{z_g} \frac{\left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L} \right)^{-1/4}}{\left(1 - \beta \frac{\xi}{L} \right)^{-1/4}} . \quad (12)$$

Substituting ξ from equation (9) into equation (12) yields

$$\epsilon = \frac{(z_2 - z_1) \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L}\right)^{-1/4}}{z_g \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \quad (13)$$

Combining equations (7), (10), and (13) results in

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} = \frac{(V_2 - V_1) \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L}\right)^{-1/4}}{z_g \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \quad (14)$$

Since

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} = \frac{U^*}{kz} \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L}\right)^{-1/4}, \quad (15)$$

then

$$U^* = \frac{kz_g}{\left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L}\right)^{-1/4}} \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g}, \quad (16)$$

or by substituting equation (14) into equation (16)

$$U^* = \frac{k(V_2 - V_1)}{\left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \quad (17)$$

To evaluate equation (17), we require an estimate of the Obukhov (1946) length L . We do this by using a basic definition of L , that is,

$$L = \frac{U^* \theta_r}{kg \theta^*} , \quad (18)$$

where θ_r is the potential temperature at a reference height and where θ^* is the temperature scaling length in the potential temperature gradient expression for unstable conditions, that is,

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} = \frac{\theta^*}{kz} \left(1 - \gamma \frac{z}{L}\right)^{-1/2} . \quad (19)$$

Using the same mathematical development for θ^* as was used for U^* , we obtained

$$\theta^* = \frac{k (\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_H \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_H \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} , \quad (20)$$

where

$$\psi_H \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) = 2 \ln \left(\frac{1 + y}{2} \right) \quad (21)$$

$$y = \left(1 - \gamma \frac{z}{L}\right)^{1/2} . \quad (22)$$

Equations (17), (19), and (20) are solved iteratively to obtain U^* , θ^* , and L .

For neutral conditions, that is, $L = \infty$, we also use these three equations, but equations (17) and (20) reduce to

$$U^* = \frac{k_2 (V_2 - V_1)}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1}} \quad (23)$$

$$\theta^* = \frac{k_2 (\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1}} . \quad (24)$$

We conclude this section with a brief discussion of the Richardson (1920) number that is one measure of stability. By definition the Richardson number can be written as

$$R_i = \frac{g}{\theta} \frac{\partial \theta / \partial z}{(\partial V / \partial z)^2} \quad (25)$$

Substituting equations (1) and (19) into equation (25) gives

$$R_i = \frac{\frac{g}{\theta} \frac{\theta^*}{kz} \left(1 - \gamma \frac{z}{L}\right)^{-1/2}}{\frac{U^{*2}}{(kz)^2} \left[\left(1 - \beta \frac{z}{L}\right)^{-1/4}\right]^2} \quad (26)$$

If $\gamma = \beta$, equation (26) reduces to

$$R_i = \frac{g}{\theta} \frac{k\theta^* z}{U^{*2}} \quad (27)$$

However, from equation (18)

$$\frac{g}{\theta_r} \frac{k\theta^*}{U^{*2}} = \frac{1}{L} \quad (28)$$

Therefore, equation (28) simplifies to

$$R_i = \frac{z}{L} \quad (29)$$

On the other hand, if we substitute equations (17) and (20) into equation (27) we obtain

$$R_i = \frac{gz}{\theta} \left\{ \frac{(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)}{k(V_2 - V_1)^2 \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_H \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_H \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \right\} \quad (30)$$

Equation (30) allows one to compute R_i for any $z_1 \leq z \leq z_2$ given measured or estimated values of θ and V .

Finally, using equations (29) and (30) we have an implicit expression for L, that is,

$$\frac{1}{L} = \frac{g}{\theta_{z_0}} \left[\frac{(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)}{k(V_2 - V_1)^2 \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_H \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_H \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \right] . \quad (31)$$

2.2 Stable Formulations

The stable case tracks the development of the unstable case, except that some equations take a different form. As an example equation (1) takes the form (Dyer, 1974; Hicks, 1976; and Hansen, 1980)

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = \frac{U^*}{kz} \left(1 + 5 \frac{z}{L} \right) = U^* \Phi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) . \quad (32)$$

Equation (2) retains the form

$$V = \frac{U^*}{k} \left\{ \ln \frac{z}{z_0} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) \right\} , \quad (33)$$

where

$$\psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) = - 5 \frac{z}{L} . \quad (34)$$

As with the unstable case, when we integrate equation (33) for two geometric heights z_1 and z_2 , where $z_2 > z_1$, we obtain

$$V_2 - V_1 = \frac{U^*}{k} \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right) . \quad (35)$$

Dividing equation (35) by $z_2 - z_1$, gives an equation of the same form as equation (6), that is,

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{z_2 - z_1} = \frac{U^*}{k(z_2 - z_1)} \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right) . \quad (36)$$

Again, as for the unstable case, we employ the mean value theorem to obtain

$$\frac{V_2 - V_1}{z_2 - z_1} = \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{\xi} , \quad (37)$$

but, where,

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{\xi} = \frac{U^*}{k\xi} \left(1 + 5 \frac{z}{L} \right) . \quad (38)$$

From equations (36), (37), and (38) we obtain

$$\xi = \frac{(z_2 - z_1) \left(1 + 5 \frac{\xi}{L} \right)}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right)} . \quad (39)$$

Assuming that an ϵ exists such that

$$\epsilon = \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} , \quad (40)$$

we obtain, by use of equation (32),

$$\epsilon = \frac{U^*}{k\xi} \left(1 + 5 \frac{\xi}{L} \right) = \frac{U^*}{kz_g} \left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L} \right) . \quad (41)$$

Solving equation (41) for ϵ gives

$$\epsilon = \frac{\xi}{z_g} \frac{\left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L} \right)}{\left(1 + 5 \frac{\xi}{L} \right)} . \quad (42)$$

Substituting ξ from equation (39) into equation (42) results in

$$e = \frac{(z_2 - z_1) \left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L}\right)}{z_g \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} . \quad (43)$$

Combining equations (37), (40), and (43) results in

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} = \frac{(V_2 - V_1) \left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L}\right)}{z_g \left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} . \quad (44)$$

Since

$$\left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} = \frac{U^*}{k z_g} \left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L}\right) , \quad (45)$$

then

$$U^* = \frac{k z_g}{\left(1 + 5 \frac{z_g}{L}\right)} \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} \right|_{z_g} , \quad (46)$$

or by substituting equation (44) into equation (46), we obtain

$$U^* = \frac{k(V_2 - V_1)}{\left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_m \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_m \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} , \quad (47)$$

which is of the same form as the unstable case. However, $\psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right)$ stable differs from $\psi_m \left(\frac{z}{L} \right)$ unstable.

To obtain the Obukhov length L for stable conditions, we again use the basic form L as

$$L = \frac{U^* \theta_r}{k g \theta^*} \quad , \quad (48)$$

where

$$\theta^* = \frac{k (\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\left(\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} - \psi_H \left(\frac{z_2}{L} \right) + \psi_H \left(\frac{z_1}{L} \right) \right)} \quad , \quad (49)$$

and

$$\psi_H \left(\frac{z}{L} \right) = - 5 \frac{z}{L} \quad . \quad (50)$$

3. TRADITIONAL FORMULATIONS AND APPROACH

The traditional approach (see Hansen, 1980) starts with the basic form of the Richardson number, that is,

$$R_i = \frac{g}{\theta} \frac{\partial \theta / \partial z}{(\partial V / \partial z)^2} \quad , \quad (51)$$

which, as shown in section 2, reduces to

$$R_i = \frac{g}{\theta} \frac{k \theta^*}{U^{*2}} z \quad . \quad (52)$$

Using the following approximations for θ^* and U^*

$$\theta^* = \frac{k (\theta_2 - \theta_1) \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L} \right)^{1/2}}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1}} \quad (53)$$

$$U^* = \frac{k (V_2 - V_1) \left(1 - \beta \frac{z_g}{L} \right)^{1/4}}{\ln \frac{z_2}{z_1}} \quad (54)$$

equation (52) becomes

$$R_i = \frac{gz (\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\theta (V_2 - V_1)^2} \ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} . \quad (55)$$

For $z = z_g$ equation (55) becomes

$$R_{i_g} = \frac{g (\theta_2 - \theta_1)}{\theta_{z_g} (V_2 - V_1)^2} z_g \ln \frac{z_2}{z_1} . \quad (56)$$

4. COMPARISONS

In this section we present comparisons of U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i for four sublayers, (1/2 - 2 m), (1 - 4 m), (2 - 8 m), and (4 - 16 m), using the proposed Rachele/Tunick (RT) formulations and the traditional formulations.

The values of V and θ required to evaluate the equations were obtained from profiles we constructed assuming that $U^* = 0.4$ m/s, $\theta^* = -0.5$ °C, $L = -24.747$ m, and $z_0 = 0.01$ m for the unstable case, and $U^* = 0.4$ m/s, $\theta^* = +0.5$ °C, $L = +24.747$ m, and $z_0 = 0.01$ m for the stable case.

Results are presented in tables 1 through 8.

TABLE 1. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (1/2 - 2 m)
(unstable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.0000	39.84015
θ^* (°C)	-.49999	-.496729
L (m)	-24.74775	-24.76738
R_i	-4.04077 x 10 ⁻²	-4.037568 x 10 ⁻²

TABLE 2. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (1 - 4 m)
(unstable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.0000	39.879406
θ^* (°C)	-.49999	-.4984686
L (m)	-24.74775	-24.67877
R_i	-8.08154 x 10 ⁻²	-8.104131 x 10 ⁻²

TABLE 3. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (2 - 8 m)
(unstable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.0000	39.980267
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	-0.50000	-.5019645
L (m)	-24.74775	-24.588487
R_i	-0.1616308	-.1626777

TABLE 4. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (4 - 16 m)
(unstable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	39.99999	40.102282
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	-.50000	-.50595617
L (m)	-24.74775	-24.509748
R_i	-0.3232616	-.3264007

TABLE 5. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (1/2 - 2 m)
(stable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.00000	40.634
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	0.50000	0.50793
L (m)	24.74775	25.05282
R_i	0.04041	0.03327

TABLE 6. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_i FOR THE SUBLAYER (1 - 4 m)
(stable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.00000	41.332
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	0.50000	0.51665
L (m)	24.74775	25.58276
R_i	0.08081	0.05621

TABLE 7. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_1 FOR THE SUBLAYER (2 - 8 m)
(stable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.00000	42.823
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	0.50000	0.53529
L (m)	24.74776	26.63664
R_1	0.16163	0.08576

TABLE 8. U^* , θ^* , L , and R_1 FOR THE SUBLAYER (4 - 16 m)
(stable case)

	<u>Rachele/Tunick (RT)</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
U^* (cm/s)	40.00000	46.093
θ^* ($^{\circ}$ C)	0.50000	0.57616
L (m)	24.74777	28.87072
R_1	0.32326	0.11616

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was performed to develop formulations that can be used to compute estimates of the height derivatives at the geometric mean height of a sublayer (layer between any two successive heights) and the similarity scaling constants for the sublayers using the mean value theorem of calculus. As such, we require that discrete vertical wind and temperature data be obtained from sensors that are geometrically spaced with height.

A prior study (Rachele et al., 1991) showed that the height derivative at the geometric mean height for similarity functional forms was not generally equal to the difference derivative of the discrete data.

Values of the scaling constants, Obukhov length, and vertical profiles of wind and temperature obtained from the formulations developed in this report were compared with values obtained from traditional equations showing minor differences for the unstable case but somewhat larger differences for the stable case, especially when considering R_1 .

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